

**Interview with Krissy Bussmann of Bussmann Balakas, LLC Kennel
October 1st, 2016 at Southland's Festival of Stakes**

GHC 1: How did you get started in the business? I know you had said that it's kind of a family thing?

KB: It is a family, yeah. We actually were in the horse racing business and several of my mom's friends got into the dog racing and they said, "Paula, you will love it. You have got to come check out these dogs" and she fell in love with it. I want to say she's been here I guess 25, 26 years. I think we're like the oldest kennel still running here.

GHC 1: That's really cool! What is the most memorable greyhound to come through your kennel? Do you guys have any fabulous stakes winners or anything?

GHC 2: Aside from this one.

GHC 1: I know, this one now!

KB: Actually, I'm going to say... That's a hard one. Well, Boc's Tony Romo is probably the most amazing greyhound I have ever had the privilege of running. The dog is just amazing and, unfortunately, he broke his leg. We got him where he is coming back, but you never know if they'll be able to handle what they did before. He's really probably the most amazing greyhound I have had the privilege of working with.

GHC 2: That's a good one. I remember hearing a lot about him.

GHC 1: What kind of things do you look for when it comes to breeding?

KB: Well, when we do breed, it has a lot to do with the bloodline. Me personally, I like, for instance, a lot of breeders want the dogs that are proven. They know they are throwing dogs that can run, but since I'm here in the kennel, there are several dogs that I've ran here that there is no way that I would not breed them. They're not available per se just yet- one of them is, Boc's Blast Off. In fact, his son ran in the Final's here in the 703, L's Shax, and he is definitely out of the Penske line that I would want to breed because I had the hands on, the heart, you know. I know his heart, I know his personality, just determination for running. Otherwise, for dogs I've never ran I would want to have bloodlines that click. You've got a lot of females that are out of Djays Octane clicking really well with Gable Dodge. That seems to be a real nice combination.

GHC 1: And with the training, cause I know you said you also help out with training, do you guys do anything different with different distances or is training the same? Like the shorter distances versus the longer distances.

KB: Actually, you don't really do too much as far as the training goes [between the distances]. What you have to do is have an eye for it because a dog that's going to be really good in the distance is going to look really bad in the 583 and if you don't have that eye, and knowledge to try them in the distance, you could be giving away a gold mine.

GHC 1: It makes sense because long distance would have to be able to pace themselves a little more than the sprinters.

KB: Absolutely, yeah, and it's a matter of having patience and giving every dog the opportunity it deserves.

GHC 1: Awesome. Well, I think that's all that we have. Thank you so much for talking with us and congratulations on your big win today.